

AS TO PORTO RICO.

Its Present Advantages Have been Overestimated

BY THOSE WHO HAVE SCHEMES

On Hand—Some of the Exaggerations Arise from Ignorance—Imports and Exports of the Island. Climate is good in the Country and Improving in the Cities—In Time it will be a Profitable Possession for the United States.

Correspondence of the Associated Press. SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, Dec. 12.—The value of this island to the United States should not be overestimated. Varied and many representations concerning Porto Rico are being made daily; some originate from men who have things to sell, be it land or merchandise; others from those whose interests are served by the presence here of Americans with money in their pockets and still other statements are made in an exaggeration that arises from ignorance and carelessness.

In considering the Porto Rico of today and the developed Porto Rico of the future it would be well to set down these facts: The island has an area of 3,500 square miles; that of the state of Connecticut is 4,750 square miles and that of New Jersey is 8,320 square miles. The population of Porto Rico is less than 900,000; there are various estimates of population ranging from 800,000 to this figure. A Spanish census of about ten years ago puts the population at 816,000, which is less than that of the city of Brooklyn. According to bulletin 13, of the United States department of agriculture entitled "Trade of Porto Rico," the annual average imports of this island from 1892-1896 to all countries amounted to 18,114,502 pesos, which amount is calculated to equal 17,489,464 American dollars and the annual average of exports for the same five years is given at 16,584,199 pesos, or 16,280,041 American dollars. The island is densely populated and closely cultivated, the population per square mile being 229. Its commercial output can certainly be increased and its consumption of foreign merchandise will augment with the development necessary to bring about this first condition. Grant that exports and imports ultimately increase 50 per cent, Porto Rico could then supply about 10 per cent of what the United States yearly consumes in tropical products, and she would be a market for about 2 per cent of our yearly exports. When these facts are considered one reaches a fair idea of the commercial value of this new possession.

As a winter and health resort Porto Rico will have its attractions; there is beautiful country to be seen, tropical and strange. The climate is delightful in winter and when we obtain the results of army statistics concerning the health of our soldiers in barracks, we will know the danger thereof. There is much evidence to indicate that this climate is a healthy one but the life in cities is not as yet. There are a few beautiful drives on the island, though the greater majority of the roads are wretched, and there are cool mountain locations well suited for comfortable hotels. The advantage of the island as a naval outpost is great. To our country at large this is probably its most valuable feature, and the establishment here of a first class navy station and supply depot is a question of time only. Porto Rico will also be a training ground for the American soldier who will find himself as a policeman in the land.

There are always a number of adventurous spirits to follow armies, ready to grasp all advantages arising from the economic changes that follow armed intervention. There has been no lack of such men to follow the American army into Porto Rico. Some of them were experienced in their work and knew how to direct their efforts through the confusion resulting from the radical political changes occurring here daily or threatened for the near future. There have also been many who could not contend with these conditions, whose small capital was soon exhausted by heavy travelling expenses and who were glad to get home as best they might. Porto Rico has not been an easy field for the amateur adventurer. Newspaper reports have been misleading and read up north through rose colored glasses and with a few hundred dollars young men have started down here in the everlasting hunt for the golden opportunity which has not yet been found.

Yet there are opportunities for profitable investment here. It requires a cool head and a clear mind to seek them out and recognize them when found and then it takes capital to work them. This is no new country where everything remains to be done. It is an old country where everything has been done.

When we speak of seventeen and a half million dollars worth of imports into Porto Rico it is not to be borne in mind that that amount represents the island's business with all the world and while it is a fact that under free trade with the United States the larger proportion of this money will be expended for American goods, yet a certain portion, which is estimated at two and a half millions a year, will be spent in foreign markets, notably in Spain and for articles we do not produce and which the islanders want and will have. The foreign trade of Porto Rico has been in the past conducted chiefly with Spain, the United States, Cuba, Germany, the United Kingdom and France. Eighty-five per cent of the merchandise imported and exported during the years 1893-1896 was exchanged with these countries. Spain received the largest share of this trade, her portion amounting annually to \$9,885,074, or 22 per cent of the total valuation. The trade with the United States during this period was second to that of Spain; our share amounted to \$6,845,252, annually or 20 per cent of the total. During these same years Spain sent to Porto Rico a yearly average of \$5,765,317 worth of goods equal to 22 per cent of

Tortured By Rheumatism.

A Purely Vegetable Blood Remedy is the Only Cure.

If the people generally knew the true cause of Rheumatism, there would be no such thing as liniments and lotions for this painful and disabling disease. The fact is, Rheumatism is a disordered state of the blood—it can be reached, therefore, only through the blood. But all blood remedies can not cure Rheumatism, for it is an obstinate disease, one which requires a real blood remedy—something more than a mere tonic. Swift's Specific is the only real blood remedy, and it promptly goes to the very bottom of even the most obstinate case.

A few years ago I was taken with inflammatory Rheumatism, which, though mild at first, became gradually so intense that I was for weeks unable to walk. I tried several prominent physicians and took their treatment faithfully, but was unable to get the slightest relief. In fact, my condition seemed to grow worse, the pains spread over my entire body, and from November to March I suffered agony. I tried many patent medicines, but none relieved me. Upon the advice of a friend I decided to try S. S. S. Before allowing me to take it, however, my guardian, who was a chemist, analyzed the remedy, and pronounced it free of potash or mercury.

The island's imports, and against this the United States furnished 24 per cent of all the islanders bought in foreign markets. For the United States to enjoy the best advantages from this new market commerce with our country must be free and there must be prohibitive duties on the productions of other countries.

It is interesting to consider what this new possession offers to the American who wants to invest from five to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars here. Agriculture is the basis of wealth; the prosperity of the year is measured by the success of the various crops. There follows the amounts of agricultural exports during the year 1897 set down in pesos. The peso is the silver dollar of the island, its intrinsic or bullion value is about thirty-eight cents gold and the rate of exchange is to-day at \$1.65. That is, you are paid \$1.65 in pesos for an American dollar. This is a commercial valuation which differs largely from the arbitrary rate of exchange of two for one established by the American military authorities in Porto Rico. The records of the Spanish bank of Porto Rico, for the last ten years show that the average rate of exchange during this period has been at 140 per cent.

Porto Rico exported in 1897, coffee to the value of 12,222,599 pesos, tobacco to the value of 1,194,318 pesos, sugar to

I felt so much better after taking two bottles, that I continued the remedy, and in two months I was cured completely. The cure was permanent, for I have never since had a touch of Rheumatism, though many times exposed to damp and cold weather.

ELEANOR M. TIPPEL,

3711 Powelton Avenue, Philadelphia

Those who have had experience with Rheumatism know that it becomes more severe each year, and like all other blood diseases, the doctors are totally unable to cure it. In fact, the only remedies which they prescribe are potash and mercury, and though temporary relief may result, these remedies produce a stiffness of joints and only intensify the disease.

S. S. S. never disappoints, for it is made to cure these deep-rooted diseases which are beyond the reach of all other remedies. It cures permanently Rheumatism, Catarrh, Cancer, Scrofula, Eczema, and all other blood diseases. It is the only blood remedy guaranteed.

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planting. Such lands also produce good cattle fodder.

These are the most expensive lands in Porto Rico to-day and the cultivation of sugar, because of the expensive machinery required to treat the cane, calls for more capital than any other industry on the island. Second class lands are those in the valleys and on the hillside in the interior. They are largely suitable to the production of coffee and their prices vary. If they are already planted with good bearing trees they are considered to be worth \$150 a cuerda. Young coffee trees need shade and lands already wooded are sometimes preferable for their planting. Land suitable for coffee planting, though not already planted, could be bought to-day for from ten to twenty-five pesos a cuerda. I know of a good farm offered for sale at 9,000 pesos. It contains in all 500 cuerdas, forty of which are already set out with promising coffee trees and one hundred more cuerdas are suitable for the immediate planting of others. The balance of 200 cuerdas are woodland and pasture, part of which would grow fruits and vegetables. Work this out and we get forty cuerdas at 150 pesos each equal to 6,000 pesos; a hundred cuerdas at ten pesos makes 7,000 pesos and the balance of 300 cuerdas for 2,000 pesos. This is a



ANOTHER ENGLISH LIGHT GROWS DIM.

Sir Edwin Arnold's Health is Said to be Poorer This Winter Than It Has Ever Been in His Life.

Sir Edwin Arnold, the English poet and author, is said to be in extremely poor health this winter. He rarely attends large entertainments, and is almost constantly under the care of a physician and his beautiful Japanese wife. His last appearance at any great public function was over two months ago, when in spite of his illness he attended a reception in London, and delivered and address, in which he expressed his love for America, and the hope that the Anglo-American alliance would be consummated.

Sir Edwin does little or no literary work in comparison to former years, even neglecting his favorite hobby—Japan.

very fair criterion of the values that for such lands pertain to-day. The black sand loam lying adjacent to the sugar lands is called third class. Their values vary some, are well adapted for tobacco culture and are expensive, others can be bought for from ten to twenty pesos a cuerda. The value of these lands for local consumption is increased if they are located near seaports or large towns. The fourth class comprises the sandy beach lands. This is where coconuts are planted. Certain fruits grow well on them and their prices will vary, according to location and adaptability, from five to twenty-five pesos a cuerda.

There is said to be a profitable future in the production of minor fruits and vegetables in Porto Rico. The oranges of the island are of fine flavor and juicy, and the pineapples and bananas are excellent. The exports of oranges amounted in 1897 to 2,510 pesos and that of pineapples to \$10 pesos. Here is a field that needs development and the advantages of free trade with the United States. If in a few years enough of such fruit is produced to warrant a line of fruit steamers from here to the United States thus insuring quick and cheap returns, the industry might give good returns. Here, as in other cases, Cuba will be Porto Rico's rival. The growing of vegetables for the off seasons of the American market could also be developed. This will likewise require rapid transportation and there must be a considerable amount to be thus transported before freight rates that admit of profit can be obtained. We have no data as to how this climate and soil will produce certain northern vegetables that to-day do not grow here. We are told that the soil is wonderfully rich and will produce "anything." Experiment will show in how far this asserted ability has a commercial value and the profitable future of such industries.

tries is largely a question of development and study.

The profits in sugar raising depend largely on duties; upon whether sugar can be placed upon the market without taxation. The profitable growing of sugar in the West Indies has for long been a question for statesmen to ponder; England has for some years been attempting to bring this industry in the colonies back to the profits of former time. In the profitable production of sugar the Cuban crop will be this island's greatest danger.

Labor here has been cheap and until to-day fairly plentiful. It is already beginning to pamper itself and ask higher wages. Every American who comes in here to operate with native labor will probably encounter difficulties in this direction. The average Porto Rico laborer does not know much but he has one firm belief and this is that the American with money is his fair prey. There will surely be encounters between employer and employee before this impression is removed.

Porto Rican tobacco is said by many to be of excellent quality. It seems to be badly harvested and cured, however, and if improvements were made in this direction its value would be increased. Much has of late years been sent to Cuba, where it has fetched good prices. The best tobacco lands here require a certain formation, location and mixture of soil. They require expert examination to determine their value and it is very easy for an amateur to err in their selection. Tobacco has been in some cases very profitable. A farm of one hundred cuerdas produced in one year \$12,000 gold and cost the owner but \$2,000 for cultivation and general expense. Good tobacco lands are consequently held at high prices; \$150 per cuerda is asked and lands suitable for the production of the best tobacco are scarce. The market for Porto Rican tobacco is one capable of development and the popularity and demand for the article will be increased by the perfection resulting from better methods of handling and curing.

Before Porto Rico can enter upon that steady march of development, education and improvement which constitute her future prosperity several conditions which at this hour hang heavily over the island will have to be removed. Porto Rico's status will have to be determined; she must be legally admitted as a territory or a colony of the United States and she will have to enjoy free trade with our country. The question of her present depreciated currency will have to be straightened out and the business uncertainty and confusion resulting from whatever measures are taken to this end must have subsided. The islanders themselves must bury past political discords and enter upon a new era of good fellowship and unity of purpose. The exceedingly high state of taxation on property in force to-day must be cut down to a reasonable assessment. The American military authorities are now collecting the taxes assessed by Spain during the first months of this year, which taxes are intended to provide for all insular expenses including the maintenance of the Spanish army of occupation, the Spanish navy and the Church of Rome, three features of insular politics that are now existent since October 18 last. This taxation on farming lands in the majority of cases, amounts to 30 per cent of the lands net earnings per year. The United States received from Spain the title to various government lands in Porto Rico. Where these lands were available for farming purposes, they have been to a great extent already taken up, and while many of them may not now be under actual cultivation, their titles are not to have been comprised under Spain and they are to-day subject to various claims resulting from the corrupt system of Spanish land registration.

Only when these existing conditions are righted will Porto Rico be ready and able to take upon herself the labors which should lead her to that degree of prosperity peace and pleasure which rightly is her due and which her past political relations have thus far prevented her from enjoying.

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Read what this Wheeling citizen says: Mr. Thomas Gabriel, of Erie street, an employee at the Aetna-Standard mills, says: "In following my work I am necessarily exposed to intense heat and in stepping into the air outside cool off very quickly. In that way I contracted a cold which settled in my kidneys and caused me a great deal of trouble. In time the kidney secretions went wrong, being too frequent and often distressing. Aside from this trouble I was always strong and healthy, and feeling it would be easier to get rid of it at once, than it would be to let it go, I got a box of Doan's Kidney Pills at the Logan Drug Co., and began their use. I felt the effect of the first three or four doses, and I did not take half a box before all symptoms of the trouble disappeared. My back felt as strong as it ever did."

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Bringing up Boys.

It happens often to the man with parental responsibilities to admonish idle young scapegraces who bear his name, writes L. F. Austin, the English humorist. When they are at home, and fixing them with a stern eye he begins: "What is this I hear about your behavior yesterday?" the admonition may be noted with sincerity and force. You have met a trial bottle free, you see him quaking at the expression of your countenance and the sound of your own indignant voice is a wonderful stimulus to reproof. All the time, of course, you don't like the job in the least. My own experience is a

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constant misgiving that the boy is thinking, though he does not say it—"It's all very well making this fuss, but you know you don't mean it. You remember that at my age you were just as idle. Ha! you don't suppose you can do me!"

There is a boy in England or Wales, who, for ten years, has never missed a day at school, nor received any sort of reprimand. And I to cite this astounding urelin as my own? Ten years a school boy, and never frightened his mother with a sham ailment, never resorted to the one hundred and one tricks of inventive boyhood to dodge a disagreeable task, never preferred a story book to his lessons, never—but why continue the list of virtues, which, as they progress, seem more hateful than crimes. The paragraph goes on to say that the pre-eminence of this marvel is already disputed, for there is a whole family which claims the same distinction for fifty-seven years! Think of nearly three generations of conscientious schoolboys without blame.

How am I, as a conscientious parent, to keep my early misdeeds from the rebellious youngster? They will come out. The boy it is my duty to rebuke for idling his time with a novel, when he ought to have been scribbling at the shrine of an irregular verb, will learn sooner or later that my first cold this winter season was caught on Brighton pier, where I sat down in an east wind to read over a six-penny copy of "Treasure Island" bought at a book-stall. I sneezed ominously at the point where Jim Hawkins expounds to Israel Hands the theory of ghosts, upon which the pirate observes: "It appears as if killing parties was a waste of time." Is it only a dissipated mind and a delinquent character that can enjoy this, or will our offspring, like so many of their elders, persist in regarding such humor as a branch of education? Let the head of the family beware lest he come under the judgment of that sense of the incongruous which is so terribly alert in our sophisticated young.

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